

Did you know...



Play is the most age-appropriate way for young children to learn. Playing with words is a great way for your child to hear the different sounds and parts of the words that make up their language.

Help your child recognize that some words rhyme, some words begin with the same sound, some words end the same, and words can be broken down into smaller sounds or parts. Children who begin to notice these things are developing **phonological awareness**. Most children who have a strong sense of phonological awareness have an easier time learning to read.

Here's how...

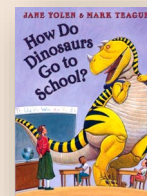


- ✦ Say nursery rhymes so that your child hears words that rhyme. Emphasize the rhyming words. "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are."
- ✦ Help your child find rhyming families: "Let's think of words that rhyme with *cat*: hat, bat, fat..." It's ok if they find a nonsense word that rhymes, such as 'gat.'
- ✦ Change the words in a nursery rhyme or song with silly or nonsense rhyming words. "Willaby wallaby woo, an elephant sat on you" becomes "Willaby, wallaby, wottle, an elephant sat on a bottle."
- ✦ Play "I Spy" games with rhyming words or beginning sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that begins with a 'f-f-f' sound (foot)," or "I spy something that rhymes with far (car)."
- ✦ Sing songs with your child every day. Songs break words down into small parts and often rhyme. See page 2 for a fun song to sing this month.

Read



***How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?* by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague**



In the "How Do Dinosaurs..." series, we learn how dinosaurs do all the things young children do, though it may be just a bit harder for such large creatures! The rhyming text and silly pictures will make your child ask you to read this book over and over again. Here is a website that tells how to say the names of the dinosaurs: www.kids-dinosaurs.com

Other "How Do Dinosaurs..." books:



Choosing Books



Types of books that help your child play with words...

Rhyming books

Dr. Seuss books

Mother Goose Nursery Rhyme books

Books that illustrate a familiar song

Books with a rhythm or beat

Books with animal noises

Books that have repeating words or sounds

Any book!

Talk



Children's picture books contain more "rare" words than what is heard on television throughout the day. As you read with your child each day, talk about some of the rare words you run across, rather than finding simpler words to replace them. If you're not sure what the word means, look it up together or ask someone else. This is good modeling for your child for when she finds a word she doesn't know.

Write



Give your child some crayons and let them draw a picture of a dinosaur or monster. Ask them to tell you about it, then help them label it with a name.

Play



Fingerplay: Five Enormous Dinosaurs

Start with five fingers held up. Each time a dinosaur goes away put one finger down.

Five enormous dinosaurs,
letting out a roar (*give a loud roar*),
One went away, and then there were four.

Four enormous dinosaurs,
munching on a tree (*pretend to munch*),
One went away, and then there were three.

Three enormous dinosaurs,
didn't know what to do (*shake your head "no"*),
One went away, and then there were two.

Two enormous dinosaurs,
Having lots of fun (*wiggle your body*),
One went away, and then there was one.

One enormous dinosaur,
Left all alone (*pretend to cry*),
He went away, and then there were none!
(*show empty hands for "all gone"*)

~ from the Hennepin County Library

www.hclib.org/Birthto6/



Sing



If You're a Great Big Dinosaur

(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

If you're a great big dinosaur,
Show your claws.

If you're a great big dinosaur
Show your claws.

If you're a great big dinosaur
Then give a great big roar (ROAR)!

If you're a great big dinosaur
Show your claws.

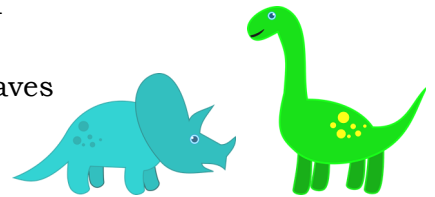
Additional verses:

... show your teeth

... wiggle your tail

... munch some leaves

... stomp your feet



Hear this tune at:

[www.thelearninggroove.com/
if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it](http://www.thelearninggroove.com/if-youre-happy-and-you-know-it)

At your library...



Don't have a library card? You can still visit your library for storytimes or to read with your child. Ask your librarian about how to apply for your own card today!